

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 2401

EXDIS

FOR SECRETARY AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: SHUM, PA, OAS
SUBJECT: PARAGUAY AND IAHC:
SECRETARY'S BILATERAL WITH FONMIN NOGUES AT OASGA

A) ASUNCION 2280 B) STATE 135207

SUMMARY: NOGUES, ALTHOUGH MOST FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARDS
IAHRC VISIT DOES NOT HAVE AUTHORITY TO MAKE FINAL BINDING
DECISION AT GRENADA. SECRETARY'S BILATERAL OUTLINING
IMPORTANCE TO PARAGUAY AND IN FACT TO ENTIRE SOUTHERN
CONE TO PERMIT IAHRC TO COME WILL BE CRUCIAL IN OBTAINING
FAVORABLE DECISION FROM PRESIDENT STROESSNER. END SUMMARY.

1. FOREIGN MINISTER NOGUES RECEIVED FINAL INSTRUCTIONS
FROM PRESIDENT STROESSNER JUNE 10. HE CALLED ME LAST NIGHT
TO GIVE ME A RUNDOWN. PRESIDNE HAD TOLD HIM THAT IN
PRINCIPLE HE FAVORED PERMITTING IAHRC VISIT BUT CONTINUED
TO WORRY THAT NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES WOULD TAKE OFFENSE.
HE ASKED NOGUES TO FIRST TALK TO AGUILER TO GET THE LEAST
OBJECTIONABLE TEAM LINED UP AND THEN TO SECRETARY VANCE
AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN TO TAKE THE TEMPERATURE AS
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TO JUST HOW BADLY USG WANTED PERMISSION FOR THE VIST TO BE
GRANTED. NOGUES SAID HE HOPED SECRETARY AND TODMAN WOULD
MAKE CONVINCING ARGUMENTS. NOGUES IS WELL DISPOED TO THE
VISIT AND CERTAIN THAT PERMISSION WILL BE GRANTED BY CONTRARY
TO WHAT LOPEZ ESCOBAR TOLD LUERS (REF B) HE DOES NOT REPEAT
NOT HAVE AUTHORITY TO MAKE FINAL DECISION IN GRENADA. AS
CUSTOMARY IN PARAGUAY THERE IS ONLY ONE MAN WHO MAKES FINAL

DECISIONES AND THAT IS THE PRESIDENT.

2. I RECOMMEND THAT SECRETARY AND TODMAN REITERATE THE
UTMOST IMPORTANCE FOR PARAGUAY AND THE ENTIRE SOUTHERN CONE
THAT GOP ERMIT IAHC VISIT. THIS SHOW OF FLEXIBILITY
BY PARAGUAY WOULD GIVE CREDENCE TO THE DEPARTMENT'S
POSITION THAT WE CAN MAKE MORE PROGRESS ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES
BY PERSUASION THAN BY SANCTIONS. INFLEXIBILITY AS SHOWN
BY PARAGUAY'S NEIGHBOURS ONLY BEGETS INFLEXIBILITY BY THE US
CONGRESS AND RESULTS IN SANCTIONS. THE MERE FACT THAT PARAGUAY
IS FAVORABLY CONSIDERING IAHC VISIT ENABLED PRESIDENT CARTER
TO SWING VOTES TO BLOCK AN ATTEMPT TO PROHIBIT TRAINING OF
ARGENTINE MILITARY. (I SHOWED NOGUES THE JACK ANDERSON COLUMN
IN THE JUNE 3 WASHINGTON POST.) MOREOVER, PARAGUAY AND ITS
NEIGHBORS, ESPECIALLY BRAZIL, HAVE BEEN TRADITIONAL FRIENDS
OF US AND VICE VERSA AND IT IS EVERYONE'S GOAL TO SEEK
ACCOMMODATIONS AND NOT SANCTIONS. MOST IMPORTANT FOR USG
IS TO CREATE THE RIGHT CLIMATE TO REALLY ADVANCE HUMAN RIGHTS
IN THE SOUTHERN CONE. IAHC WILL NOT COME TO CONDEMN AND
HUMILIATE GOP BUT TO POINT TO WAYS TO IMPROVE HUMAN RIGHTS
SITUATION. PARAGUAY NEED NOT FEEL PRESSURED BY AN INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATION AND CAN MAKE RECOMMENDED CORRECTIONS WITHOUT
ENDANGERING NATIONAL SECURITY. GOP'S ACTION WILL MAKE
IT POSSIBLE FOR ITS NEIGHBORS TO BREAK OUT FROM IN-
FLEXIBLE PATTERN AND AS A RESULT BOTH HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS
AND BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH THE US CAN BE IMPROVED IN
SOUTHERN CONE. PARAGUAY CAN AND SHOULD BE LEADER BECAUSE
BRAZIL, URUGUAY, ARGENTINA, AND CHILE HAD EITHER MANDATORY
SANCTIONS IMPOSED ON THEM BY CONGRESS OR VOLUNTARILY REJECTED
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US ASSISTANCE. PARAGUAY SO FAR IS UNTAINTED BY ANY CONGRESSIONAL
ACTION AND CAN LEAD THE WAY FOR ALL ITS NEIGHBORS BY DEMONSTRATING
THAT IT CAN NEGOTIATE POSITIVELY WITH THE IAHC WITHOUT ANY
LOSS OF SOVEREIGNTY.

3. NOGUES IS FAMILIAR WITH THESE ARGUMENTS AND HAS BOUGHT
THEM. YOU MIGHT HAVE BETTER ONES. IF SO, PLEASE USE THEM.
THE MAIN POINT IS THAT HE MUST RETURN FROM GRENADA AND TELL
PRESIDENT STROESSNER THAT SECRETARY VANCE SPEAKING FOR
PRESIDENT CARTER HAD RAISED THESE ISSUES CONVINCINGLY AND THAT
HE, NOGUES, RECOMMENDS THAT PRESIDENT STROESSNER APPROVE
IMMEDIATELY A VISIT FROM IAHC.
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